

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042822  
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TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, NU

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRES. CARTER  
AND PRES. PEREZ OF VENEZUELA

REF: MANAGUA 0685

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF LETTER SENT BY PRESIDENT  
PEREZ TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND REPLY SENT TO  
WHITE HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 15.

BEGIN TEXT MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

IN OUR CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DEFENSE  
AND ADVANCEMENT OF WHICH ARE HAPPILY FIRM POLICIES  
OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, WE AGREED TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF  
VIEW AND TO CONSULT WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.

THIS AGREEMENT, SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMON DETERMINATION  
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TO FIGHT FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND FOR THE  
FUNDAMENTAL ETHICAL VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, LEADS ME TO  
RAISE WITH YOU THE URGENT AND DRAMATIC CASE OF  
NICARAGUA, A LATIN AMERICAN NATION SUBJECTED TO A  
LONG AND CORRUPT DICTATORSHIP THAT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY  
VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS.

TODAY, THIS PEOPLE, HAVING OVERCOME THE TRADITIONAL FEAR OF A DICTATORSHIP'S ABUSES AND STIMULATED BY THE INDIGNATION AROUSED BY THE VILE MURDER OF THE DEMOCRATIC NICARAGUAN JOURNALIST, PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, PRESUMABLY EXECUTED BY OFFICIAL DESIGN, HAS CREATED A MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY THAT JOINS TOGETHER ALL SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, FARMERS, WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN, INDUSTRIALISTS, HOUSEWIVES AND CHURCH MINISTERS HEADED BY THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE TRAGIC STATE OF AFFAIRS THROUGH WHICH THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ARE LIVING.

GIVEN THIS SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA HAS UNLEASHED A FEROCIOUS REPRESSION WHICH IS DENOUNCED DAILY BY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES AND BY NICARAGUAN EXILES IN COSTA RICA.

TO REMAIN INDIFERRENT BEFORE THIS SHAMEFUL AND FLAGRANT VIOLATION WOULD MEAN TO IGNORE AND CONTRADICT THE VERY SAME PURPOSES THAT YOU AND I HAVE DEFINED IN OUR POLICIES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, I PROPOSE TO YOU A JOINT ACTION THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS COULD INCLUDE REQUESTING THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA FOR AN URGENT VISIT TO THAT COJNTRY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

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CORDIALLY,

CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ  
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA  
END TEXT

BEGIN TEXT DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 31 AND AM PLEASED THAT WE SHARE A DESIRE TO SEEK EACH OTHER'S COUNSEL ON MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. I ALSO SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TUMULTUOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN NICARAGUA.

THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES AT STAKE: THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE NICARAGUAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

WITH REGARD TO THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA, WE ARE AWARE OF SERIOUS PAST ABUSES. WHILE THERE WERE SOME IMPROVEMENTS DURING 1977, I STRONGLY AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A VISIT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR

AN URGENT VISIT. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA TIME TO REPLY BUT I WILL BE FOLLOWING THIS MATTER CLOSELY.

ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN NICARAGUA, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU. I DEEPLY RESPECT YOUR STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL CHANGE IN NICARAGUA. IN THE LONG-TERM, HOWEVER, THE NATIONS OF CENTRAL AMERICA CAN ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE IN THE FULLEST SENSE ONLY IF THEY SHAPE THEIR DESTINIES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. WE CAN AND WILL VOICE OUR PREFERENCE FOR INCREASED DEMOCRATIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES, AND HAVE DONE SO  
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REGARDING NICARAGUA. WE CAN AND WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO SHAPE OUR POLICIES TOWARD THIS END. BUT WE WILL NOT ACT TO PROPOSE OR IMPOSE, SPECIFIC POLITICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

IN THIS PERIOD OF POLITICAL CRISIS IN NICARAGUA, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED NEW ARMS TRANSFERS AND WITHHELD SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE SOMOZA REGIME. THOUGH OUR SYMPATHIES ARE CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF STEADY EVOLUTION TOWARD GREATER DEMOCRACY, MY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACT IN ANY WAY WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED AS POLITICAL INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL NICARAGUAN POLITICS.

I BELIEVE THAT IF THE NICARAGUANS ARE TO BUILD A VIABLE AND LASTING DEMOCRACY THAT RESPONDS TO THEIR OWN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THEY MUST UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE THE TASK THEMSELVES.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR MY POSITION, AND I ALSO HOPE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AND OTHERS EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AMBASSADOR VAKY.

MY WARMEST REGARDS.

SINCERELY, END TEXT VANCE

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